

HAMATEUR CHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs -- since 1917

August, 2000 Vol. 08 No. 08

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From the President's Desk

Dave DeFebo - WB9BWP



Dave DeFebo

Time to thank some people for the last few programs. These have included Matt Planning for The Story of the Decibel and most recently Bill Lubitz for kit building and a look see at the Elecraft K2. The K2 has been getting great reviews and shows that hams can still build their equipment. Bill offered to do the program after my call for people with new projects or radios to talk about. Anyone else?

Speaking of programs, we will be trying some new approaches to running a meeting during the next few meetings in order to arrive at the optimum meeting setup. Personally I do not like to delay the program until after a break because it sometimes is very hard

to get everyone back to their chairs after some doughnuts. Some people also leave at that time. All that does not encourage a speaker (or make us look very good). So one of the things I will try is to get the program going earlier and delaying some club business until later. We'll see how things go. Any ideas?

Thanks also to Brian White for getting a new roster out. This makes 2 years in a row that we have had a new roster. A new club record. During the coming year we will try to list new members in the Chatter. If you move, change your call sign or whatever, be sure to let Pancho know so that information could be published (and let Brian know so our records are correct).

Vern Teske is working on getting a Christmas Party set up. He can't do it all alone. If you like the Christmas party and would be willing to help out with some aspect of it, con-

continued on page 2

Milwaukee Area Nets

DAY	TIME	MHZ	ACTIVITY
Daily	6-8 AM	14.290	Wisconsin/Florida Net (SSB)
Daily	6:30 PM	3.645	Wis. Slow Speed CW Traffic Net
MON-FRI	8:30 AM	3.965	After Breakfast Club (SSB)
MON	8:00 PM	146.445	Emergency Net
MON	9:00 PM	146.670	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
MON	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Net
TUE	9:00 AM	50.160	6 Mtr. 2ndshifter's Net
TUE	8:00 PM	144.250	Badger Contesters (SSB)
TUE	8:00 PM	7.035	A.F.A.R. Net (CW)
WED	8:00 PM	28.365	10-10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)

DAY	TIME	MHZ	ACTIVITY
THU	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Interest Net
THU	9:00 PM	146.910	Computer Net
FRI	8:45 PM	28.490	MRAC W9RH 10 meter Station Net (SSB)
FRI	9:15 PM	147.045*	W9RH 2 mtr. FM net after the 10 mtr. net
SAT	9:00 PM	146.910	Saturday Nite Fun net
SUN	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr. 55) (SSB)
SUN	10:00 AM	443.800*	FM-38 Link to 146.88 Baraboo SWAP Net
SUN	8:00 PM	28.365	10-10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
SUN	8:00 PM	146.910	Information Net
SUN	9:00 PM	146.910	Swap Net

The 2 meter FM frequencies are -600 khz offset FM repeaters. FM38 is +5 Mhz offset, tone 114.8. The 10 meter SSB frequencies are upper sideband (USB). If there are additions, changes, or corrections to this list, please contact: Pancho - KA9OFA at 344-4694 or call:

1-(262)-797-MRAC or (797-6722).

HAMATEUR CHATTER

MILWAUKEE CHATTER is the newsletter of **MRAC** (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club) which is a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct. MRAC Membership dues are \$15.00 per year and run on a calendar year starting with January 1.

Our Club/VEC Phone no. is (262) 797-MRAC.

Correspondence may be addressed to:

M. R. A. C.

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club

P.O. Box 070695

Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

Our meetings are normally at 7:30 PM.
the last Thursday of the month except for December.

Visit our website at: <http://www.qsl.net/mrac/>

Presidents Desk continued from page 1

tact Vern. For the last few years the board has taken care of the details, time to get others involved (this is the second year for Vern, thanks Vern).

We have some opportunities coming up for license classes. Some members of the Badger Search and Rescue group would like to get their technician licenses. We would like to run a class dedicated to them (about 5 people so far). We are also trying to nail down a location for a General class. We would like to start in October and run for about 4 or 5 weeks. Could you help with either of those plans? How about on-the-air code practice? Dick McNew has been doing that single handedly for a number of years and it's time he had help. We don't run a hamfest, we aren't big in contests, we don't have a really slick repeater. One thing we

did seem to do fairly well was run license classes. Our most recent venture ran from 1976-1996.

According to the club archives, MRAC first offered classes in 1922 (yes, 1922). It's time to get going again. Contact myself (preferably via email) if you would like to help.

FLASH: As I finish writing up my stuff for this month, plans are falling into place for a new repeater site. An area company which some members have a connection with has donated some roof space about 150 feet above surrounding area for our repeater. The only costs to us should be some feedline and connectors and mounting hardware. Rent will be free (and electricity too). The location will be a couple of miles northwest of downtown Milwaukee. We can't yet provide an exact date for the move and things will probably happen in stages, moving the

repeater and running it with a limited antenna at about 100 feet and then the final antenna install happening sometime later. This site should remove any limitations on getting into the repeater for many of our members. While we are not trying to be the next big repeater in the area (5.13, 6.82 and 6.91 take care of wide coverage quite well). That means there will be 1 less excuse for the total lack of use of the machine.

The electrician who will be doing the roof work is Nick Broncatti - KA9LUW, who is n'

David B. Waples



Tom - KF9PU
One of our two
VECs

at a recent meeting.

FOR SALE 40 - 6m BEAMS

Sommer Antennas models XP-508 and XP-708 beams for sale. These are log-periodics optimized for the 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 6 meter ham bands. The XP-508 has a 15 foot boom. The XP-708 has a 20 ft. boom consisting of a single piece of aluminum, so it does not need support from above. Because they have full-size elements, they are more broad-banded than trapped-element antennas.

Further details can be obtained from Sommer's Web page:

<http://www.sommerantennas.com>

The antennas are located in Milwaukee, WI

Rick Kissell - WB9GYT
rkissell@execpc.com
(414) 643-8039

Awesome Pics

I know you're all just dying to meet the folks who were part of the VEC conference. Well, now you can! (Sort of.) Go to www.w4vec.com <<http://www.w4vec.com>>, and click on the "Special Events" link (need to scroll down a bit). They're in black and white—shame on that photographer!!—but otherwise not too bad. Enjoy!

Tom

MRAC Board Meeting 7/24/Y2K

All are present at the meeting. Previous meeting minutes were read and approved as written.

The Club's old P.O. Box is now closed. Mail will automatically go to the new box for one year.

The new box number is 070695 zip code is 53207-0695.

Treasurers Report — No report as yet. The transfer of files are still in process between Les and Ken.

Roster — The board discussed if updates during the year are in order or just a mention of any new members in the Chatter will suffice. All new members will be listed in the Chatter along with their address and phone number so all members can update their roster.

Tom reported that the NCVEC Conference was interesting. They would like to establish a nation wide standard for the code test. Use the Farnsworth method with 13 to 15 wpm characters and 5 wpm spacing. The written test will have fill in the blank instead of multiple choice. Also one minute of perfect copy is acceptable. Must get 7 out of 10 questions right. The new rules will take effect on 7/1/2001. The new Extra Class question pool will be out by 7/1/2002. The FCC also wants to start their own numbering system called CORES by next summer. All communication with the FCC must include this new I.D. number. Pancho will put more info in

the 'Chatter on this subject.

Brian — No word on classes at WCTC as yet.. Brian is trying to organize classroom space.

Discussion about changing the meeting day to avoid conflict with other club meetings. The Board decided that our meeting date of the last Thursday of the month has been established and shall remain as it is.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim WB9LNU

Jim - WB9LNU
Secretary



Jim - WB9LNU,
Secretary



* indicates VE testing

BARRON COUNTY ARC

First Swapfest

SUN - AUG. 27, 2000

Cumberland Airport
Cumberland, WI

PEORIA SUPERFEST 2000 *

FRI-SUN.- SEP. 15-17, 2000

Exposition Gardens Fairgrounds
Peoria, IL

GCARA

Communications Expo

SUN - SEP. 17, 2000

Kolping Center
Cincinnati, OH

T/I on 146..88 (-)

Radio Expo 2000 *
SAT. & SUN. - SEP. 23 & 24, 2000

Lake County Fairgrounds
Grayslake, IL

Southeast Iowa HamFest *

SUN. - OCT. 1, 2000

Muscatine Co. Fairgrounds
West Liberty, IA

**29th Annual Davenport Radio
Club HamFest/Computer show**

SUN. - NOV. 5, 2000

Iowa National Guard Hanger, Mt Joy Airport
Davenport, IA

T/I on 146.88/28

Alt 146.64/04 No PL

**FORT WAYNE HAMFEST AND
COMPUTER EXPO**

SAT & SUN - NOV. 18 & 19, 2000
Allen Co. War Memorial Coliseum Exposition
Center

Fort Wayne, IN

GPS N 41 06.862 W 85 07.390

**MRAC Christmas Dinner and
Party**

SUN. - DEC. 3, 2000

Patio Club
Milwaukee, WI

September



Roger C. Zaun	W9UVV ...	9/07
William A. Joyce	KA9IWS ...	9/09
Jerome J Dolezal	W9NSC	9/16
Joe C. Thompson Sr	W9GER	9/24
Terry Putchinski	KB9OPT ...	9/25
Robert J Immekus	W9CYI.....	9/27
Chester M. Rainek	N9AAI.....	9/29
James A. Fischer	W9LPF	9/30

73 de Brian - K9LCQ

Brian

Happy Birthday !!



MRAC Club Meeting 7/27/00

The meeting was called to order at 7:38. Previous meeting minutes were read and approved as written. Treasurers report — \$2,547.75 plus the CD.

The mic was passed for all to I.D.

Dave, our president informed the members of our new P.O. Box number, 070695. All mail sent to the old box will automatically be forwarded for one year. Dave passed out blank membership applications to all present so they have one in case they meet someone who would like to join the club.

The club's WEB site address and board members E-Mail addresses will be in all Chatters from now on.

Tom, KF9PU, gave the NCVEC conference report. There will be no band restructuring at this time. The morse test will be standardized using the Farnsworth method. 13 to 15 WPM character speed with 5 WPM spacing. One minute of solid

copy is also O.K. The written test will be changed to fill in the blank. You must get 7 questions correct.

Jim, WB9LNU wrote the history of MRAC and the world, year by year, that will be included with the new member package and also broken up into several issues of the Chatter. Dave passed the original copy around for all to look at.

There has been some talk that AES may resume with their TECH video classes soon. The club will be looking for volunteer teacher, if we are able to find classroom space. We also would like volunteers to teach CW over the air like Dick, WB9PTC has done in the past.

From now on, all meeting dates for the whole year will appear in each Chatter.

Brian, K9LCQ, reports that we made ~ 564 points at Field Day. This is very close to our usual av-

erage.

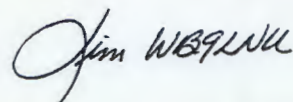
Vern, W9RYA, has reserved the Patio Club for the MRAC Christmas Party. He is looking for a volunteer to help him with all the small details of the party. Party dates will be clearly listed in the Chatter. Along with advanced ticket order blanks.

Rick, WB9GYT, gave the July DX report.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

W9EMC gave a talk on kit built equipment he made and the expertise needed to make a successful kit.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim - WB9LNU
Secretary



Visit our website at:

<http://www.qsl.net/mrac/>

Credits

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

**KB9BWP WB9LNU KB9PRC
K9LCQ KF9PU**

Thanks to **Rita Doneis** and **Kristi Potochnik** for their help in the proofreading dept. Our thanks goes to **John Merkl** and **Barbara Brewer** for making sure that the 'Chatter gets printed, stamped, and mailed.

We would also like to thank **Alfred Huwald**, and **Myron Hendrickson** for taking care of



the refreshments at our meetings.

Also our thanks goes to **Tom Scherlowsky** and **Jacque Horwitz** for handling the Raffle at the meetings.

And a Big Thanks to all of our officers (past and present) who have tirelessly toiled for the good of the Club and Amateur Radio in general.

Many thanks!!

Christmas Party

Vern Teske - W9YRA has been working on plans for the Christmas party.

He has reserved the Patio Club at 1421 E. Howard Ave. for Sunday - December 3. We will gather at 5:00 PM. and Dinner will be at 6:00 PM.



VEC's Adopt Standards for Morse Code Exam

Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) agreed upon a standard format for Morse code testing at their recent national conference.

Held July 21 in historic Gettysburg, Pa., the conference brought together representatives of 11 of the nation's 14 VECs. While most of the day's discussion dealt with administrative matters, VECs did address the important issue of Morse code testing. The conference decided that:

Morse code should be delivered using the Farnsworth method and at a character rate of 13 - 15 wpm.

The multiple choice exam will no longer be used. Instead, examinees will be required to provide a one-word answer for each of the 10 questions (sometimes referred to as the "fill in the blank" method.) At least seven correct answers are required to pass.

Examinees who fail the written exam can still pass by showing one minute of error-free copy in their notes.

Examiners may implement these changes at any time, but must do so by July 1, 2001. This deadline was chosen to give producers and retailers of code tapes sufficient time to change their stock.

In other business, the conference heard from a representative of the FCC on the commission's new registration system.

Known as CORES (for Commission Registration System), this system assigns an identification number to any person or entity conducting business with the FCC. Many hams are already aware of the license ID number generated under ULS (Universal Licensing System). That number is used exclusively in the wireless telecommunications bureau.

The CORES number, on the other hand, is used throughout the

FCC. Often referred to as an FRN, for FCC registration number, this will eventually replace the license ID number issued under ULS.

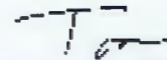
According to Judy Dunlap, of the Data Management Division, all amateur radio operators who were registered under ULS when the CORES program went live on July 19 were issued a new federal registration number. She said letters were being sent to those individuals explaining the CORES program and providing the new FRN. Your existing password may be used with the new FRN, she said.

For now, amateur radio operators may continue registering their Social Security numbers under ULS. Doing so will generate both

the license ID number and an FRN.

However, hams are highly encouraged to register for an FRN. Currently, use of the FRN is voluntary, Dunlap said, but is expected to become mandatory by summer of 2001.

For more information and to register, visit the FCC's website at www.fcc.gov, and click on the CORES registration link. Registration may also be done manually. To order a registration form, contact the FCC at 1-800-418-3676.



Tom Fuszard, KF9PU

Understanding VECs and VEs

Though VECs and VEs have important and sometimes visible roles in the testing and licensing processes, their precise functions are not always understood.

The VEC program began in 1984. Up to that time nearly all examinations were held in FCC field offices. In the 1980s, the FCC expressed a willingness to turn over the licensing duties to authorized amateur radio operators. That authority was granted when the Communications Act was amended in 1983. From that action Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) and Volunteer Examiners (VEs) were born.

VECs oversee and support the testing process. Among their many duties, they accredit VEs, provide testing materials, review graded material, file the test results, and assist in the development or revision of the test pool documents. From a peak of 39 in the 1980s, the number of VECs has declined

to 14, where it stands today.

The task of administering and grading exams often falls to the VEs. These individuals must meet certain age and license class requirements, and must be accredited by a VEC. (Other qualifications are spelled out in Part 97.)

VECs can be either large or small. The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club VEC, for example, is comprised of two people: John Kraak, KF9XL, and me. John typically has fewer than a dozen VEs assisting him at each session. Consequently, we tend to limit ourselves to one test session per month.

ARRL VEC and W5YI VEC staffs, on the other hand, are much larger, and each supports numerous VE teams across the country. Indeed, W5YI VEC supports VE teams in a number of foreign countries.

TRF

MRAC

This Month's meeting:

Thu. - August 31, 2000 (Y2K)

7:30 PM

Program:

Location: **Redemption Lutheran Church**

Fellowship Hall

4057 N. Mayfair Rd.

(Use the south entrance)

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

**Please! Don't call the Church
for information!!!**

Board meeting: **Mon. - August 28, 2000**

Next meeting: **August 31, 2000**

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HamateurChatter

**Deadline is
September 1, 2000**

MRAC Getting Back Into (HAM) Classes

We have been talking about getting classes going again. We are working out details on 2 possible locations. If you are interested in helping out teaching classes (we will probably start with a General class) please contact Dave WB9BWP at wb9bwp@arrl.net. We would also like to step in and take the load off Dick McNew for his on-air code practice. If you would like to help in this area also contact Dave. We would like to get something going around October.

Note our **New Address**

MRAC

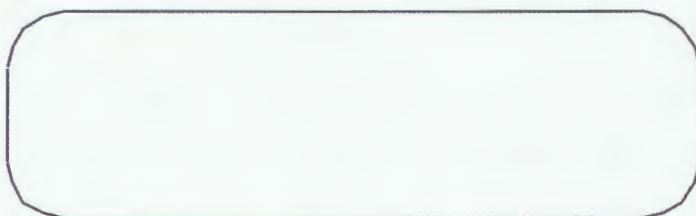
P.O. Box 070695

Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

Our Repeater is an open one.

Use it or lose it!!!

147.045+ MHz



Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

P.O. Box 070695

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club

M.R.A.C.

Phone (262) 797-MRAC -- Use our Club Repeater - W9RH 147.045 offset

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